

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1203

By Williams

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Lowell Luther Woods for his generosity and meritorious service to Jefferson County High School graduates.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated their personal funds, time, efforts, and excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Lowell Luther Woods is one such remarkable person who, through his hard work, expertise, and dedication, has helped to piece together the enduring fabrics that comprise the grand tapestry of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the child of Nola and Luther Woods, Mr. Woods grew up on a fifteen-acre farm in Dandridge; and

WHEREAS, after earning a three-year track and cross-country scholarship, Lowell Woods attended the University of Tennessee, where he obtained an engineering degree; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woods went on to work for Alcoa, Boise Cascade, and Wick Building Systems before finally serving with acumen and alacrity as a vice-president at Clayton Homes, from which position he retired after forty-three years having earned the respect and admiration of his peers and superiors alike for the singular quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, during his outstanding tenure at Clayton Homes, Lowell Woods dramatically improved efficiency and increased production, raising the company's national ranking from 281st to an incredible seventeenth place in just ten years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woods now focuses his time and energies on his second career as an investor, and is continuing his legacy as a financial and personal success; and

WHEREAS, a selfless individual whose benevolent nature knows no bounds, Lowell Woods is giving back to his hometown of Dandridge with the establishment of the Lowell Luther

Woods Scholarship Foundation, an endowment that will provide a Jefferson County High School senior who follows Mr. Woods's example of overcoming obstacles and achieving distinction with \$5,000 a year to study at the University of Tennessee (UT); and

WHEREAS, after working with the high school's staff and an assistant vice-president for planned giving at UT, Mr. Woods will provide a \$300,000 endowment for the scholarship, along with an annual donation for initial funding; and

WHEREAS, the scholarship will be awarded to students who have both good grades and work experience, excellent attendance, help with the family finances, are active in the community, have overcome adversity, and desire financial independence; and

WHEREAS, the first recipient of the scholarship is Ms. Stacy Whitaker, who is this year's valedictorian of Jefferson County High School, and a young lady who has distinguished herself as one of this State's finest and brightest young people; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Diane and Bobby Whitaker, Stacy Whitaker persevered through the application process, which included an interview with Lowell Woods, writing an essay, and required reading of both Mr. Woods's autobiography as well as his favorite book, *The Millionaire Next Door*, with her trademark diligent study and steadfast commitment of time and talent; and

WHEREAS, despite her busy schedule with her studies, Ms. Whitaker also works part-time to earn money to continue her education, in addition to working on her family's farm, where she raises tobacco, chickens, cattle, and a sizeable vegetable garden; and

WHEREAS, Stacy Whitaker's display of intellectual aptitude and ambition surely bodes well for her future success at the University of Tennessee through the auspices of the Lowell Luther Woods Scholarship Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Lowell Woods exemplifies the spirit and dedication that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and his outstanding success as a public servant is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense; he is the ideal of the consummate professional, compassionate philanthropist, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woods is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service and community outreach that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and applaud Lowell Luther Woods for his praiseworthy efforts and unparalleled generosity to the students of Jefferson County High School, salute his establishment of the Lowell Luther Woods Scholarship Foundation, and extend to him our best wishes for his continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.